

## Message Text

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P 032312Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL IZMIR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158211

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ATHENS 4980 ACTIONSECSTATE INFO ANKARA

OTTAWA 3 JUL 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4980

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR TU

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL FLARE UP IN AEGEAN: TURKISH-

CONTRACTED SHIP (GEOL I) IN GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER STAVROPOULOS SUMMONED ME THIS MORNING TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT THE GOEL I, APPARENTLY AN AMERICAN-OWNED SHIP UNDER A CANADIAN FLAG CONTRACTED TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT FOR SEISMIC EXPLORATIONS IN THE AEGEAN. STAVROPOULOS SAID THAT THIS CASE WAS WELL KNOWN TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD GIVEN THE GREEK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ASSURANCES OVER A MONTH AGO THAT THIS VESSEL WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT ENTER GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS OR "WATERS OF CONCERN" TO THE GOG. HOWEVER, IN THE LATE AFTERNOON AND EARLY EVENING OF TUESDAY, JULY FIRST, THE VESSEL DID--HE THOUGHT IN THE COMPANY OF A TURKISH VESSEL--(NO DETAILS) ENTER WATERS "OF CONCERN" TO GREECE BETWEEN IZMIR  
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AND THE GREEK ISLAND OF MYTILINI (LESVOS) AND SUBSEQUENTLY

PROCEEDED DIRECTLY INTO GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS ON THE SOUTH COAST OF LESVOS. THE GEOL I WAS OBSERVED AT APPROXIMATELY 6:15P.M. JULY 1 AT APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES OFF THE SOUTH COAST OF MYTILINI OR THREE MILES OR MORE INSIDE GREECE'S TERRITORIAL WATERS. THE VESSEL WAS APPROACHED BY A GREEK SHIP AND WARNED AWAY. THE TURKISH VESSEL DEPARTED. THE GEOL I CONTINUED TO STEAM IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION DESPITE THE WARNINGS, AND IT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME DISTANCE FROM THE ISLAND OF LESVOS FOR AN ADDITIONAL 45 MINUTES OR SO BEFORE FINALLY TURNING SOUTHWARD AND BACK TO SEA.

2. STAVROPOULOS SAID THAT HIS INFORMATION WAS THAT THE VESSEL WAS OWNED BY THE GEOPHYSICAL OFF SHORE EXPLORATION COMPANY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS, WHICH IS A SUBSIDIARY OR AFFILIATED COMPANY OF G. SEFEL AND ASSOCIATES OF CALGARY, CANADA. THE SHIP IS REPORTEDLY UNDER CONTRACT TO THE DORCHESTER COMPANY OF DALLAS, TEXAS WHICH IN TURN HAS ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TURKISH PETROLEUM COMPANY FOR THE PRESENT EXPLORATIONS.

3. STAVROPOULOS PRODUCED A CHART ON WHICH THE SHIP'S PATH AND SIGHTINGS HAD BEEN RECORDED AND SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION ABOUT THE SHIP'S ENTERING GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS. EVEN ALLOWING FOR TURKISH CLAIMED TERRITORIAL WATERS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF "STRAIGHT BASE LINES", WHICH GREECE HAD NEVER ACCEPTED, THERE WAS NO QUESTION BUT THAT THE GEOL I HAD DEPARTED WATERS CLAIMED BY TURKEY AND HAD APPARENTLY CONTINUED ITS RESEARCHES IN GREEK WATERS THAT WERE NOT EVEN BEING DISPUTED BY TURKEY. STAVROPOULOS SAID THAT THE GOG WANTED TO DO ITS UTMOST TO AVOID ANY NEW FLARE UP OF DIFFICULTIES IN THE AEGEAN AND WAS SOLICITING THE VIEWS AND ASSISTANCE OF THE AMERICAN AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS TO AVOID THIS. HE SAID HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR LATER THIS MORNING ON THIS SAME SUBJECT. I SAID THAT SINCE THE TURKISH PETROLEUM COMPANY WAS THE CONTRACTING PARTY, IT SEEMED TO ME THAT A LOGICAL FIRST STEP WOULD BE ALSO TO TAKE THE MATTER UP IMMEDIATELY WITH TURKISH AUTHORITIES. STAVROPOULOS SAID THAT HE HAD DONE JUST THAT, HAVING SEEN THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR EARLIER TODAY. HE SAID THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR

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WAS REPORTING THE MATTER TO ANKARA IMMEDIATELY. STAVROPOULOS SAID THAT HE HAD ALSO INSTRUCTED THE GOG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH THE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. STAVROPOULOS INDICATED THAT IF THE GEOL I DID NOT REFRAIN FROM ENTERING GREEK WATERS IN THE FUTURE THAT THE GOG DID NOT EXCLUDE SEIZING THE VESSEL AND HOLDING IT.

4. STAVROPOULOS SAID HE WAS MAKING THESE REPRESENTATIONS TO

US IN THE FRIENDLIEST OF MANNERS AND FULLY RECOGNIZED THE  
COMPLICATED NATURE OF THE VESSEL'S OWNERSHIP AND CONTRACTUAL  
ARRANGEMENTS. HE SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE MY  
REPORTING THE GOG'S CONCERN TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY AND  
THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO RECEIVING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE  
OUR REACTION.

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** IZMIR  
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